

(2) geologic maps are the primary data base for virtually all applied and basic earth-science investigations, including—

- (A) exploration for and development of mineral, energy, and water resources;
- (B) screening and characterizing sites for toxic and nuclear waste disposal;
- (C) land use evaluation and planning for environmental protection;
- (D) earthquake hazards reduction;
- (E) predicting volcanic hazards;
- (F) design and construction of infrastructure requirements such as utility lifelines, transportation corridors, and surface-water impoundments;
- (G) reducing losses from landslides and other ground failures;
- (H) mitigating effects of coastal and stream erosion;
- (I) siting of critical facilities; and
- (J) basic earth-science research;

(3) Federal agencies, State and local governments, private industry, and the general public depend on the information provided by geologic maps to determine the extent of potential environmental damage before embarking on projects that could lead to preventable, costly environmental problems or litigation;

(4) the combined capabilities of State, Federal, and academic groups to provide geologic mapping are not sufficient to meet the present and future needs of the United States for national security, environmental protection, and energy self-sufficiency of the Nation;

(5) States are willing to contribute 50 percent of the funding necessary to complete the mapping of the geology within the State;

(6) the lack of proper geologic maps has led to the poor design of such structures as dams and waste-disposal facilities;

(7) geologic maps have proven indispensable in the search for needed fossil-fuel and mineral resources; and

(8) a comprehensive nationwide program of geologic mapping is required in order to systematically build the Nation's geologic-map data base at a pace that responds to increasing demand.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of sections 31a to 31h of this title is to expedite the production of a geologic-map data base for the Nation, to be located within the United States Geological Survey, which can be applied to land-use management, assessment, and utilization, conservation of natural resources, groundwater management, and environmental protection.

(Pub. L. 102-285, §2, May 18, 1992, 106 Stat. 166.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 31a to 31h of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 102-285, which is classified principally to sections 31a to 31h of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-36, §1, Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1107, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 31b to 31h of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under

this section] may be cited as the ‘National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 1997’.”

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 102-285 provided that: “This Act [enacting this section and sections 31b to 31h of this title, amending sections 1457, 1457a, and 1782 of this title, sections 450ii-3, 665, 1133, and 3151 of Title 16, Conservation, section 262k of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse, section 1677 of Title 25, Indians, sections 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4, 4c, 4d, 5, 6, 7, 8, 411, 412, 804, 812, 871, 878, 1224, 1229, 1232, 1311, 1315, and 1604 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining, and sections 5814 and 6505 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, enacting provisions set out as notes under section 31 of this title and section 1 of Title 30, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1231 of Title 30] may be cited as the ‘National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992’.”

FINDINGS

Pub. L. 105-36, §2, Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1107, provided that: “Congress finds that—

“(1) in enacting the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 31a et seq.), Congress found, among other things, that—

“(A) during the 2 decades preceding enactment of that Act, the production of geologic maps had been drastically curtailed;

“(B) geologic maps are the primary data base for virtually all applied and basic earth-science investigations;

“(C) Federal agencies, State and local governments, private industry, and the general public depend on the information provided by geologic maps to determine the extent of potential environmental damage before embarking on projects that could lead to preventable, costly environmental problems or litigation;

“(D) the lack of proper geologic maps has led to the poor design of such structures as dams and waste-disposal facilities;

“(E) geologic maps have proven indispensable in the search for needed fossil fuel and mineral resources; and

“(F) a comprehensive nationwide program of geologic mapping is required in order to systematically build the Nation's geologic-map data base at a pace that responds to increasing demand;

“(2) the geologic mapping program called for by that Act has not been fully implemented; and

“(3) it is time for this important program to be fully implemented.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 31b, 31d, 31f, 31g, 31h of this title.

§ 31b. Definitions

In sections 31a to 31h of this title:

(1) Advisory committee

The term “advisory committee” means the advisory committee established under section 31d of this title.

(2) Association

The term “Association” means the Association of American State Geologists.

(3) Director

The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(4) Geologic mapping program

The term “geologic mapping program” means the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program established by section 31c(a) of this title.

(5) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) State

The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

(7) Survey

The term “Survey” means the United States Geological Survey.

(Pub. L. 102-285, § 3, May 18, 1992, 106 Stat. 167; Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1107.)

AMENDMENTS

1997—Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a)(1), substituted “In sections 31a to 31h of this title:” for “As used in sections 31a to 31h of this title:” in introductory provisions.

Par. (1). Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a)(5), inserted heading.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a)(2), (3), added par. (2). Former par. (2) redesignated (3).

Pars. (3) to (5). Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a)(2), (5), redesignated pars. (2) to (4) as (3) to (5), respectively, and inserted headings. Par. (5) redesignated (7).

Par. (6). Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a)(4), added par. (6).

Par. (7). Pub. L. 105-36, § 3(a)(2), (5), redesignated par. (5) as (7) and inserted heading.

§ 31c. Geologic mapping program**(a) Establishment****(1) In general**

There is established a national cooperative geologic mapping program between the United States Geological Survey and the State geological surveys, acting through the Association.

(2) Design, development, and administration

The cooperative geologic mapping program shall be—

(A) designed and administered to achieve the objectives set forth in subsection (c) of this section;

(B) developed in consultation with the advisory committee; and

(C) administered through the Survey.

(b) Responsibilities of the Survey**(1) Lead agency**

The Survey shall be the lead Federal agency responsible for planning, developing priorities, coordinating, and managing the geologic mapping program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall—

(A) develop a geologic mapping program implementation plan in accordance with section 31e of this title, which plan shall be submitted to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate within 300 days after August 5, 1997;

(B) appoint, with the advice and consultation of the Association, the advisory committee within 90 days after August 5, 1997, in accordance with section 31d of this title; and

(C) within 210 days after August 5, 1997, submit a report to the Committee on Energy

and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives identifying—

(i) how the Survey and the Association will coordinate the development and implementation of the geologic mapping program;

(ii) how the Survey and the Association will establish goals, mapping priorities, and target dates for implementation of the geologic mapping program; and

(iii) how long-term staffing plans for the various components of the geologic mapping program will lead to successful implementation of the geologic mapping program.

(2) Responsibilities of the Secretary

In addition to paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall be responsible for developing, as soon as practicable—

(A) in cooperation with the Association, other Federal and State agencies, public and private sector organizations and academia, the geologic-map data base; and

(B) maps and mapping techniques which achieve the objectives specified in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Program objectives

The objectives of the geologic mapping program shall include—

(1) determining the Nation’s geologic framework through systematic development of geologic maps at scales appropriate to the geologic setting and the perceived applications, such maps to be contributed to the national geologic map¹ data base;

(2) development of a complementary national geophysical-map data base, geochemical-map data base, and a geochronologic and paleontologic data base that provide value-added descriptive and interpretative information to the geologic-map data base;

(3) application of cost-effective mapping techniques that assemble, produce, translate and disseminate geologic-map information and that render such information of greater application and benefit to the public; and

(4) development of public awareness of the role and application of geologic-map information to the resolution of national issues of land use management.

(d) Program components

The geologic mapping program shall include the following components:

(1) Federal component

A Federal geologic mapping component, whose objective shall be determining the geologic framework of areas determined to be vital to the economic, social, or scientific welfare of the Nation. Mapping priorities shall be based on—

(A) national requirements for geologic-map information in areas of multiple-issue need or areas of compelling single-issue need; and

¹ So in original. Probably should be “geologic-map”.